

Happy Birthday 1st Armored Division

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Training at Fort Knox, Ky. in 1941 (above), 1st Armored Division's 13th Armored Regiment prepares for combat.



1st Armored Division tankers are mounted on a M-48 Patton tank at Fort Polk, La., in 1956.

and



1st Armored Division rolls ashore during a beach landing exercise in Fort Lauderdale, FL, in 1962.



Photo by Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni

NOW



Photo by Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni

Mounted on Bradley Fighting Vehicles (center and above), soldiers from 1-36 Infantry, based in Friedberg, Germany, patrol the roads in Partes, Kosovo.

1st Armored Division soldiers have been at the vanguard of America's fighting forces since the division's inception. Campaigns in North Africa and Italy during WWII were only the beginning for America's Tank Division.

1st Armored Division continued to lead the nation during troubled times with Cuba and through Vietnam. Old Ironsides brought new meaning to the words heavy metal impact as the division crushed the Iraqi Republican Guard during Desert Storm. Leaving a sea of burning metal hulks and twisted wreckage in her wake of desert sand, Old Ironsides returned to peaceful times and tough training in Germany.

The peace following Desert Storm was shattered

by ethnic cleansing and political upheaval in the Balkans. Again, 1st Armored Division received the call. The division forged the way across the Sava River into Bosnia in 1995.

No strangers to the Balkans, 1st Armored Division deployed troops to Albania in April 1999 during Task Force Hawk. As in Bosnia, 1st Armored Division tanks were the first to roll across the border into hostile territory.

Today, 1st Armored Division's Ready First Combat Team is on point for the nation in Kosovo, patrolling towns like Partes, Klokot and Gnjilane.

Born into a world at war and tempered in the flames of conflict, 1st Armored Division celebrates her 60th birthday at the head of America's combat forces in Kosovo.